AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a method of making one or more user interfaces for real time communication less intrusive by automatically adjusting the one or more user interfaces based on the user's level of interaction over a period of time, the method comprising acts of:

displaying an intermediate representation of a user interface for real time communication, the intermediate representation including a text input box and at least a portion of a received real time message;

monitoring all types of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface over a period of time determining an overall level of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface based on a combination of all monitored user interactions with the user interface within the period of time; and

determining the location and size of any other application windows that are being displayed in addition to the intermediate representation; and

automatically adapting the user interface to the user's activity level by performing at least one of:

based on the determined overall level of user interaction, and without any explicit user input indicating that the intermediate representation is to be enlarged, automatically enlarging the size of the intermediate representation of the user interface to an enlarged representation appropriate for a high determined overall level of interaction, wherein the intermediate representation is enlarged without obstructing other windows in accordance with the determined location of the other windows, wherein the enlarged representation includes the text input box; and

based on the determined overall level of user interaction, <u>and without any explicit user input indicating that the intermediate representation is to be reduced,</u> automatically reducing the size of the intermediate representation of the user interface to a reduced representation appropriate for a low determined overall level of interaction.

2-3.   (Cancelled).

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the enlarged representation corresponds to a maximized state for the user interface, and wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface corresponds to a minimized state for the user interface.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising an act of, upon automatically reducing the intermediate representation to a reduced representation, displaying a message to indicate where the reduced representation is located.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the increased level of interaction comprises one or more of hovering over the intermediate representation and clicking a pointing device on the intermediate representation.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the increased level of interaction comprises typing text in the text input box, and wherein the enlarge representation comprises a send option, the method further comprising an act of automatically reducing the enlarged representation to the intermediate representation upon selection of the send option.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication is displayed within a desktop bar.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the desktop bar also displays a contact representation, the method further comprising an act of, upon dragging and dropping a file object

onto the contact representation, displaying a real time message window that includes the file object and an option to send the file object to a contact associated with the contact representation.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising an act of highlighting the contact representation when one or more real time messages are received from the contact associated with the contact representation.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the contact representation comprises a user definable icon.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the desktop bar displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces simultaneously with the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising an act of automatically reducing or enlarging the one or more representations of the one or more other user interfaces when the intermediate representation is automatically enlarged or reduced.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more other user interfaces comprise one or more of a calendar object, a streaming video object, a streaming audio object, and a contact list.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reduced representation of the user interface for real time communication comprises a selectable icon.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication is automatically reduced to the reduced representation, the method further comprising an act of displaying one or more received real time messages adjacent the reduced representation for at least a predetermined period of time.

17.   (Currently Amended)   In a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a method of simplifying user interaction with one or more real time communication user interfaces by adapting the one or more user interfaces to the user's activity level measured over a period of time, the method comprising steps for:

monitoring all types of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface;

determining an overall level of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface based on a combination of all monitored user interactions with the user interface within the period of time;

determining the location and size of any other application windows that are being displayed in addition to the intermediate representation;

determining, without any explicit user input indicating that the intermediate representation is to be adjusted, a size adjustment based on the determined level of user interaction with the initial representation of the user interface; and

automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface, such that the initial representation is adjusted without obstructing other windows in accordance with the determined location of the other windows.

18-19. (Cancelled).

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 17, wherein the step for automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface based on the monitored level of user interaction occurs without an explicit input to reduce or enlarge the initial representation.

21-25. (Cancelled).

26.   (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising an act of displaying the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication in a desktop bar.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the desktop bar also displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising a step for automatically adapting the one or more other user interfaces to account for one of more size changes in the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication.

29.   (Currently Amended) For a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media carrying computer executable instruction that implement a method of making one or more user interfaces for real time communication less intrusive by automatically adjusting the one or more user interfaces based on the user's level of interaction over a period of time, the method comprising acts of:

displaying an intermediate representation of a user interface for real time communication, the intermediate representation including a text input box and at least a portion of a received real time message;

monitoring all types of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface;

determining an overall level of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface based on a combination of all monitored user interactions with the user interface within the period of time; and

determining the location and size of any other application windows that are being displayed in addition to the intermediate representation; and

automatically adapting the user interface to the user's activity level by performing at least one of:

based on the determined overall level of user interaction, and without any explicit user input indicating that the intermediate representation is to be enlarged, automatically enlarging the size of the intermediate representation of the user interface to an enlarged representation appropriate for a high determined overall level of interaction, wherein the intermediate representation is enlarged without obstructing other windows in accordance with the determined location of the other windows, wherein the enlarged representation includes the text input box; and

based on the determined overall level of user interaction, and without any explicit user input indicating that the intermediate representation is to be reduced, automatically reducing the size of the

intermediate representation of the user interface to a reduced representation appropriate for a low determined overall level of interaction.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the act of automatically reducing the intermediate interface occurs without an explicit input to reduce the intermediate representation.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface corresponds to a minimized state for the user interface.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising an act of, upon automatically reducing the intermediate representation to a reduced representation, displaying a message to indicate where the reduced representation is located.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the reduced representation of the user interface for real time communication comprises a selectable icon, the method further comprising an act of displaying one or more received real time messages adjacent the selectable icon for at least a predetermined period of time.

34. (Original) The computer program product of claim 33, the method further comprising an act of enlarging the selectable icon representation of the user interface for real time communication in response to the user interacting with the one or more real time message displayed adjacent to the selectable icon.

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time communication is displayed within a desktop bar and wherein the desktop bar displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces simultaneously with the intermediate representation of the user interface for real time

communication, the method further comprising an act of automatically reducing or enlarging the one or more representations of the one or more other user interfaces when the intermediate representation is automatically enlarged or reduced.

37.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the one or more other user interfaces comprise one or more of a calendar object, a streaming video object, a streaming audio object, and a contact list.

38. (Currently Amended) For a computer system that supports real time communication between a user of the computer system and one or more contacts, a computer program product comprising one or more computer readable media carrying computer executable instructions that implement a method of simplifying user interaction with one or more real time communication user interfaces by adapting the one or more user interfaces to the user's activity level over a period of time, the method comprising steps for:

monitoring all types of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface;

determining an overall level of user interaction with the intermediate representation of the user interface based on a combination of all monitored user interactions with the user interface within the period of time;

determining the location and size of any other application windows that are being displayed in addition to the intermediate representation;

determining, without any explicit user input indicating that the intermediate representation is to be adjusted, a size adjustment based on the determined level of user interaction with the initial representation of the user interface; and

automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface, such that the initial representation is adjusted without obstructing other windows in accordance with the determined location of the other windows.

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 38, the method further comprising an act of displaying the initial representation of the user interface.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the step for automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface based on the monitored level of user interaction occurs without an explicit input to reduce or enlarge the initial representation.

41-44. (Cancelled).

45.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 38, further comprising an act of displaying the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication in a desktop bar that also displays one or more representations of one or more other user interfaces.

46.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 45, further comprising a step for automatically adapting the one or more other user interfaces to account for changes in the initial representation of the user interface for real time communication.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising automatically adjusting subsequent representations of the user interface according to a periodic interval.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises enlarging at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises reducing at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein automatically applying the determined size adjustment to the initial representation of the user interface comprises maintaining the current size of at least a portion of the representation of the user interface.

51-53. (Cancelled).

54.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the initial representation of the user interface comprises the text input box and a send option, and wherein reducing the initial representation of the user interface is in response to the user selecting the send option.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising a step for indicating where the reduced representation may be found.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the reduced representation comprises a conversation balloon.

57. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52, wherein the initial representation of the user interface comprises the text input box and a send option, and wherein reducing the initial representation of the user interface is in response to the user selecting the send option.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the monitored user interaction with the intermediate representation includes two or more of the following over the period of time: hovering over the intermediate representation with a pointing device, entering text using the intermediate representation, selecting an element in the intermediate representation with the pointing device, changing focus to the intermediate representation, dragging and dropping items within the intermediate representation, minimizing, maximizing, opening, closing, resizing and moving the intermediate representation.

59. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining that the overall level of user interaction is sufficient to expand at least a portion of the intermediate representation beyond the boundaries of the representation's desktop header bar.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein an instant messaging portion of the intermediate representation is expanded beyond the boundaries of the representation's desktop header bar based on the determined overall level of user interaction with the instant messaging portion.

61.   (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the instant messaging portion of the intermediate representation is popped out and separated from the intermediate representation, such that the instant messaging window appears as a self-contained representation.

62.   (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising the user adding at least a portion of a second, different representation in place of the popped out instant messaging portion.

63.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

dragging and dropping a file onto a selected instant messaging user listed among instant messaging users in the instant messaging portion of the intermediate representation; and

opening an instant messaging window that includes the selected user and the dragged and dropped file.